

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 113516

R 031440Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 948

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: SENATE ELECTION OUTLOOK

1. EMBOFFS HAVE RECENTLY VISITED SEVERAL PROVINCES WHERE ELECTIONS
WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 12.THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT STANDINGS
OF THE PARTIES AND CAMPAIGN ISSUES FOLLOW:

A. ESKISEHIR-AT STAKE ARE TWO SENATE SEATS AND ONE IN THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY. TO THE EXTENT THERE ARE ANY ISSUES IN THE CAMPAIGN IN
ESKISEHIR, THEY ARE NATIONAL ONES. PROVINCIAL LEADERS OF BOTH
THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) AND THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP)
AGREE THE TWO SENATE SEATS, NOW HELD BY THE JP, WILL BE SPLIT
BETWEEN THEM. BOT ALSO EXPRESS HOPES OF WINNING THE VACANT NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY SEAT ALTHOUGH THE RPI ADMITS IT IS FIGHTING AN UPHILL BATTLE
IN THIS TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE STRONGHOLD.

NATIONAL

SALVATION PARTY (NSP) COULD TIP THE BALANCE IN THE RPP'S FAVOR
IF IT INCREASES ITS PERCENTAGE OF THE VOTE MUCH BEYOND THE 1973
LEVEL OF 9.2 PERCENT, BUT IT IS NOT GENERALLY EXPECTED TO DO SO.

B. GIRESun-TWO SENATE SEATS, PRESENTLY DIVIDED BETWEEN
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THE RPP AND JP. THE CONSENSUS FORECAST IS FOR THE TWO PARTIES

TO SPLIT THE SEATS AGAIN. LOCAL OBSERVERS SAY NATIONALIST ACTION PARTYS(NAP) STRENGTH IS GROWING, BUT LACK OF A LARGE STUDENT POPULATION (IN WHICH THE NAP USUALLY THRIVES) HINDERS ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS

C. KAYSERI-THREE SENATE SEATS ARE BEING CONTESTED IN THIS GROWING CENTRAL ANATOLIAN INDUSTRIAL CENTER. THE THREE WERE FORMERLY SHARED AMONG THE JP, THE NAP (THROUGH A DEFECTION FROM THE JP), AND THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) (THROUGH A DEFECTION FROM THE RPP). INTERESTINGLY, THE FIRST SPOT OF THE JP LIST IN THIS ELECTION WAS GIVEN TO A FORMER PARLAIMENTARIAN OF THE OLD DEMOCRAT PARTY OF MENDERES WHILE THE NUMBER TWO SPOT IS HELD BY THE INCUMBENT RR SENATOR. THE RPP IS MAKING A STRONG EFFORT IN THIS RACE WITH A THCKST HEADED BY FORMER CYPRUS COORDINATOR AND DIPLOMAT ZIYA MUEZZINOGLU. OBSERVERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PERSUASIONS BELIEVE THAT THE JP AND THE RPP ARE CERTAIN OF ONE SEAT EACH, WHILE THE JP, RPP, AND NSP ALL HAVING A CHANCE OF WINNING THE THIRD SEAT.

D. NIGDE-TWO SENATE SEATS AND ONE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AEAT ARE TO BE DILLED HERE. PREVIOUSLY THE JP HELD ONE OF THE SENATE SEATS AND THE SEAT IN THE ASSEMBLY. THE SECOND SENATE SEAT WAS HELD BY THE NAP. EVEN OBSERVERS IN RIVAL PARTIES SUCH AS THE RPP AND THE DP SEE THE JP AS LIKELY TO WIN ONE SENATE SEAT AND THE ASSEMBLY SEAT IN NIGDE. THE RPP SEEMS LIKELY TO CAPTURE ONE SENATE SEAT HERE THROUGH THE DP STILL HAS A CHANCE IN THIS PROVINCE WHERE THEY WERE FORMERLY THE JP'S CHIEF RIVAL.

E. SAMSUN-ONE VACANT SENATE SEAT, PREVIOUSLY HELD BY RPP. OUTCOME HERE IS RATED AS TOSSUP; BOTH JP AND RPP CHAIRMEN WERE CONFIDENT OF VICTORY. HOWEVER, THE JP'S EIGHT PERCENT BULGE OVER THE RPP IN 1973, COUPLED WITH GAINS FROM FORMER DP VOTERS, SHOULD PROVIDE IT A SLIM MARGIN OF VICTORY. NEVERTHELESS, A REPORTED SPLIT IN THE JP DURING THE PRIMARY, IF NOT RECONCILED, COULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE RPP'S KENAN BULUTOGLU, A PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY WHO COMES FROM AN INFLUENTIAL PROVINCIAL FAMILY, TO CAPITALIZE ON THAT DISCONTENT.

F. TRABZON-THREE SENATE SEATS, ALL PRESENTLY HELD BY JP.
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JP AND RPP ARE BELIEVED SURE TO WIN ONE SEAT EACH IN THIS BLACK SEA PROVINCE. THE THIRD SEAT WILL LIKELY GO TO THE RPP, ALTHOUGH JP HAS A CHANCE. WORKING AGAINST JP IS FACT THAT LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATION WAS WEAKENED AFTER TWO OF THE THREE JP INCUMBENTS WERE DEFEATED IN THE PRIMARY AND THE THIRD WAS PLACED IN THE NUMBER THREE SPOT ON THE LIST. THE NUMBER TWO SPOT ON THE RPP LIST IS HELD BY FORMER NAVAL FORCES COMMANDER KJYACAN, WHO SHOULD ADD STRENGTH TO THE RPP

TICKET. NAP CANDIDATE SAFFET RIZA ALPAR, FORMER RECTOR OF BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY, IS EXPECTED TO RUN A STRONG CAMPAIGN, BUT EVEN THE NAP PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN DISCOUNTS HER CHANCE OF WINNING A SEAT. HOWEVER, A STRONG SHOWING WOULD PULL VOTES AWAY FROM THE JP. JP CHANCES AT A THIRD SEAT DEPEND ON RECAPTURING THE 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE WON BY THE DP AND NSP IN 1973.

G. ZONGULDAK-ONE SEAT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS AT STAKE IN THIS BLACK SEA COAL CENTER FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF A JP DEPUTY. POLITICAL OBSERVERS SEE THE RACE AS BASICALLY BETWEEN THE JP AND THE RPP, ALTHOUGH THREE SMALLER PARTIES (NSP, NAP, AND DP) AND AN INDEPENDENT ARE RUNNING AS WELL. WHILE THE RACE IS TOO CLOSE TO CALL, THE JP APPEARS TO HAVE A SLIGHT EDGE. THE ECONOMY IS CLEARLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THIS HEAVILY INDUSTRIAL AND MINING PROVINCE.

2. COMMENT: LOCAL ISSUES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE PROVINCES VISITED. THE EXPECTATIONS OF LOCAL PARTY LEADERS ARE THAT THE VOTES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE ISSUES ARGUED BY THE PARTIES' NATIONAL CHAIRMEN OR BY THE PERSONALITIES OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMEN. LOCAL PARTY LEADERS WERE ALSO RELUCTANT TO TALK PERCENTAGES; THEY FELT MORE COMFORTABLE DISCUSSING SEATS WON OR LOST. EXTRAPOLATING FROM THEIR COMMENTS WE PROJECT THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE RANGE OF DISTRIBUTION FOR THE 54 SENATE SEATS AT STAKE: RPP (25 TO 32), JP (20-27), THIRD PARTIES PRIMARILY NSP ALTHOUGH THE NAP AND DP APPEAR TO HAVE AN OUTSIDE CHANCE OF PICKING UP A SEAT (0-6.)

3. THE IMPRESSIONS REPORTED ABOVE, WHICH APPEAR TO COINCIDE WITH THOSE REPORTED SEPARATELY FROM ADANA, ISTANBUL
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AND IZMIR SUGGEST THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES (RPP AND JP) WILL INCREASE THEIR RESPECTIVE SHARES OF THE VOTE RELATIVE TO 1973. THE NSP, AT LEAST IN WESTERN TURKEY, SEEMS TO BE SLIPPING.

THE REASONS FOR THESE TRENDS INCLUDE:

A) THE MORIBUND CONDITION OF THE DP WHICH RECEIVED 11.9 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN 1973. ALTHOUGH IT IS RUNNING CANDIDATES IN ALL RACES, IT HAS SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL DEFECTIONS FROM ALL LEVELS OF THE PARTY--PRIMARILY TO THE JP.

B) THE NON-PARTICIPATION OF THE RR IN THE ELECTIONS THE RR RECEIVED 5.3 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN 1973 AND THESE VOTES WILL PROBABLY BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE JP AND RPP.

C) THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM SMALLER PARTIES HAVE IN
MAINTAINING CANDIDATE DRIVE AND VOTER SUPPORT IN CONTESTS THEY
CANNOT POSSIBLY WIN AS IS THE CASE IN MOST PROVINCES WHERE
ONLY ONE OR TWO SEATS AUY D IDDNHSFM COMPOUNDING THIS PROBLEM
FOR SMALLER PARTIES AND INCREASING THE PRESSURE FOR CONSOLIDATION
OF POWER IN MAJOR PARTIES IS THE DESIRE OF THE AVERAGE VOTER TO
MAKE HIS VOTE COUNT.

D) ECEVIT'S APPEAL AS THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE SUCCESSFUL
TURKISH MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS. HOW MUCH OF
THIS LUSTRE HAS GONE IS NOT KNOWN, BUT AT LEAST SOME REMAINS.
NEVERTHELESS, ECEVIT HAS NOT TO DATE BEEN ABLE TO GENERATE THE
EXCITEMENT HE DID IN 1973.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA07540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750344-0503
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751085/aaaacxyh.tel
Line Count: 183
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE ELECTION OUTLOOK
TAGS: PINT, TU, RPP, JP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006